

LINWOOD VETERINARY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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October 2005 Newsletter

CLINIC INFORMATION

As you know all businesses are struggling with the dramatic increase in fuel costs. Farms have been hit directly and indirectly as companies increase charges to off set fuel costs. We have supplied free delivery of products for many years and clients have appreciated this service. Instead of simply raising prices to off set fuel costs we want to give the client base another option. If we can get you to order more product per delivery therefore requiring less frequent deliveries we hope to make up the cost of fuel by improving efficiency instead of putting more financial burden on farmers. By working together we can find solutions.

Hey all you backyard dairy farmers – is your cow in calf? We would be happy to help get that cow pregnant for you so you have milk next year. Our family cow program has been an exceptional success and we are looking for new recruits. Let our office know, and we will get under way.

DAIRY

As October approaches there are a few things to consider and be sure you are on top of:

1. Deworming – Eprinex has been shown to increase milk production by approximately 7% in fresh cows. Eprinex is effective against internal parasites and external parasites which rob production. As pasture season winds down it is the time for Eprinex.
2. Vaccination – We still are promoting the use of modified-live vaccines in dairy herds. Bovishield Gold is our primary choice. This product must be used in the open period on dairy cows and is also appropriate for calves and open heifers. Some management is necessary to maintain this program – talk to your herd health veterinarian about how we can help with this.
3. Reproduction – As always, one of the most important management aspects on a dairy farm. Now is the time to breed any cow and heifers who have been open for a while, as animals bred during the month of October will begin to calve in late July, just in time for fall incentives next year. Ov-Synch protocols are useful for breeding cows with slight modifications necessary for heifers. Keeping these animals open any longer then necessary is expensive – get them bred right away and milking sooner.

BEEF

Banamine has been shown to increase response to antibiotics in steers with shipping fever over animals treated with antibiotics alone, as well as similar drugs such as Dipyrone. While Banamine is slightly more expensive than drugs such as Dipyrone, its effectiveness at reducing fever and preventing long-term lung damage makes this cost difference negligible. Dosing of Banamine is at 1cc/100lbs, either IM or IV. (Also remember that Dipyrone is banned from use in the USA, and now that we can ship steers there Dipyrone should not be used as no established withdrawal time has been determined).

EQUINE

Flu Outbreak

Flu season has begun earlier than usual this year. The presentation of upper respiratory tract viral infections (influenza or rhinopneumonitis) this year has been either very mild or severe to the point of pneumonia. Typical clinical signs of horses suffering from the flu include fever (normal equine body temperature is 37.5-38.5°C or 99-101.5°F), cough, nasal discharge and inappetance. It's a good idea to rest horses that aren't feeling well. Horses that are returned to work too fast can have a relapse, or develop complications such as heaves or pneumonia.

Pneumonia is the most common complication arising from the flu, so any horse that is completely off feed should receive a 5 day course of antibiotics. TMS Syrup 6cc/100lbs orally once daily or Penicillin 4cc/100lbs IM once daily. Pneumonia can be difficult to treat in horses and often requires very potent antibiotics or combinations of antibiotics.

Controlling the flu can be difficult once it is on your farm. Try to minimize nose to nose contact from sick or recovering horses and those that are not yet ill. Handle or feed healthy animals first and sick horses last. Sick horses can go outside for fresh air on nice days, but try to limit fence line contact. Prevention of the flu involves regular vaccination. Vaccinated horses typically show no flu symptoms, or less severe symptoms than non-vaccinated horses. Horses are often vaccinated in the spring with their West Nile inoculation, or in November/December. Any farm that usually vaccinates in the winter and has not yet experienced an outbreak may want to advance their vaccination to October. This is very important if any vaccine other than Calvenza was used last year, as most flu vaccines achieve a very short protective immunity (i.e. less than 6 months). There are many flu vaccines available on the market, varying widely in cost, strains included, and length of immunity. At this time Calvenza is the only vaccine labeled for a full year of protective immunity from influenza and rhinopneumonitis. Fluvac and Equilis both have 4 months of immunity or less, and are therefore less expensive.

COW/CALF

What a great fall so far! Some producers have already pregnancy checked their cows, processed their calves and are set to wean. Even though you have more field work to do now, these warmer sunny days are far more enjoyable to work than in the cold, snowy, rainy days of December or January.

Deworming with Ivomec/Dectomax

Updated information from the US is telling us that products such as Ivomec and Dectomax can lose their potency if you leave it exposed to light, leave it in the back of the pick up (driving around knocking the contents around) or leave it over a year's time. Ivomec/Dectomax do not like exposure to the air. So that product left over from last year may not be good enough. Bottom line is:

1. Buy product in a proper container such as the one Ivomec/Dectomax come in.
2. Only buy enough to be used up this fall.
3. Do not leave it in a vehicle. Store in your office or medicine cabinet.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this, please give the office a call.